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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/791,895	03/04/2004	Christian Keller	7346	5189
39196 7590 04/15/2008 SHLESINGER, ARKWRIGHT & GARVEY LLP 1420 KING STREET SUITE 600 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER JACKSON, BRANDON LEE				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3772				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
04/15/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/791,895

Applicant(s)

KELLER ET AL.

Examiner

BRANDON JACKSON

Art Unit

3772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 March 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 10-13 and 22-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3, 5, 6 and 13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-2, 4, 10-12, and 22-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/808)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to amendments/arguments filed 3/11/2008. Currently, claims 1-6, 10-13, and 22-24 are pending in the instant application.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/11/2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 3/11/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues the Sheridan device may not be flipped. However, the Sheridan device is merely a tube with two open ends, either open end is fully capable of being inserted first in the patient. Further, Applicant argues the Sheridan/Field device does not teach one end being angled; however, element 20 of the Field's reference clearly shows the angled end to assist in insertion of the device.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-2, 4, 7, 10-12, and 22-24 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sheridan (US Patent 3,508,554) in view of Field (US Patent 5,919,183). Sheridan discloses an esophageal device comprising a slender tube/insert (2) that has multiple functions (col. 1, lines 33-42). The tube/insert (2) comprises a tubular member (4) a first section (8), second section (6), and intermediate section (fig. 2) therebetween; integrally connected. The tube/insert is made of plastic and opaque (col. 5, lines 56-61). Also, the tube/insert (2) has indicia markings (10) to mark the depth of the tube in the user. The first and second sections (8, 6) have front and rear sections, as well as tips (fig. 2). The length and diameter of the tube/insert (2) are about 20 to 90 cm and 2 to 5 mm (col. 4, lines 70-73), respectively.

With respect to the second section front portion extending from about 0.5% to about 50% of the total length of said slender tube/insert (2), the applicant has not

disclosed that this specificity implies any particular criticality or useful advantage. Further, Sheridan does not disclose a specific length or range of lengths for the distal section with respect to the total length of the tube/insert (2). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make the second section front portion in accordance with the needs of a particular patient as such would have been a matter of engineering design choice.

The tube/insert is flexible (col. 8, lines 60-62). It is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the endotracheal tubes are made of stiff, malleable, and ductile material in order to position a tube in the throat without injuring the user and to allow the tube to bend from the mouth to the throat without collapsing the tube so medical devices, air, or food can pass through the tube. Sheridan fails to disclose the selected hardness of the first and second sections are between about 50 SHORE A to about 90 SHORE D, the tube is made of PVC, tips of softer material than the intermediate section, an end bent between 25 and 45 degrees that reshapes upon withdrawal, and the first and second sections having a SHORE hardness approximately 20 to 30% less than said selected hardness of said intermediate section. However, Field teaches an endotracheal tube (1) comprising an introducer (2) of hardness between 50 SHORE A and 80 SHORE D (col. 1, lines 53-55), that has a proximal end bent at 40 degrees (col. 2, lines 35-40), which is around 35 degrees, and reshapes upon withdrawal (col. 46-49), and tips softer than the intermediate section (col. 3, lines 26-29); a tube (1) made of PVC (col. 2, lines 19-20) that bends to conform to the throat (col. 2, lines 21-25). Therefore it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time of the invention to modify the Sheridan

device with the limitations, as taught by Field, in order to make the tube easier to insert into the user's throat. Moreover, either side of the Seridan/Field tube/insert could be bent at a 40 degree angle and inserted into the patient first.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRANDON JACKSON whose telephone number is (571)272-3414. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia Bianco can be reached on (571)272-4940. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Brandon Jackson/
Examiner, Art Unit 3772

Art Unit: 3772

BLJ

/Patricia Bianco/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3772